



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Virginia

Main Street Centre
600 E. Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2447

804/819-5400

NEWS RELEASE

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Further Information Contact
Ann Helms 804-819-5400

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentencing today of Betty Mae Wood, age 52, of Amelia, Virginia, for unlawfully transferring identification documents produced without lawful authority. Wood pled guilty on February 22, 2005. The Honorable Richard Williams sentenced Wood to a term of imprisonment of 12 months and imposed a \$3,000.00 fine.

Wood was the manager of the Department of Motor Vehicles Customer Service Center in Western Henrico County. She admitted at the time of her plea, that from June 2004 through October 15, 2004, she unlawfully provided at least six individuals with Virginia driver's licenses. In each instance, Wood issued a license without requiring the applicant to take the required written and physical tests, and often did not require proof of identity, citizenship, or residency. Indeed, in July of 2004, Wood produced and sold a Virginia Driver's License to an undercover police officer after being informed that the Social Security Card he provided was not legitimate. In September of 2004, Wood produced and sold a Virginia Driver's License to a second undercover police officer who was unable to produce any identity, residency, or citizenship documents.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This case is an important step in our continuing efforts to maintain the integrity of identification document procedures. Identity fraud plays a major role in terrorist tactics and strategy."

Also announcing the sentencing are Donald Thompson, Special Agent-In-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Richmond Resident Office; Colonel Steven Flaherty, Superintendent of the Virginia State Police; and Commissioner D.B. Smit, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

This case was investigated by FBI, the Virginia State Police, and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Special Investigations Unit, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney S. David Schiller.

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